

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 CU-04 IO-13 EB-11 FAA-00 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /141 W

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R 211045Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2118

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS

CICNUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS & AEAGG-OCO

CICNUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, UR, GE

SUBJECT: SOVIET REQUEST RE LOCAL FLIGHTS DURING WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

1. AT BASTILLE DAY RECEPTION JULY 14, COLONEL CHERKASHIN, SOVIET BASC CHIEF CONTROLLER, APPROACHED US COUNTERPART AND REQUESTED THAT THERE BE NO LOCAL FLIGHTS OVER EAST BERLIN DURING PERIOD JULY 26 TO AUGUST 3 BECAUSE OF WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (WYF). (HE DID NOT EXPLAIN DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THESE AND ACTUAL DATES). CHERKASHIN SAID LOCAL FLIGHTS "UPSET PEOPLE," MENTIONED THE LARGE CROWDS EXPECTED AND REFERED TO MAY DAY INCIDENT WHEN US U-6 WAS OVERHAED (BERLIN 759). HE CAST HIS APPROACH AS REQUEST RATHER THAN DEMAND BUT FROM SOME REMARKS OF INTERPRETER, WHO INTERJECTED THAT REQUEST WAS OFFICIAL, WE HAD THOUGHT THAT THIS CONVERSATION MIGHT BE FOLLOWED UP WITH MORE FORMAL APPROACH IN BASC. HOWEVER, SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED AGAIN BY SOVIETS.

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2. HAVING DECIDED, ON BALANCE, IT WAS BEST NOT TO LEAVE MATTER

DANGLING, IT WAS AGREED IN CONSULTATION WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH TO HAVE US CHIEF TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOVIET CHIEF'S PRESENCE IN BASC JULY 20 TO MAKE FOLLOWING INFORMAL REPLY:

QUOTE IN REGARD TO YOUR INFORMAL COMMENTS THE OTHER DAY ABOUT LOCAL AIR ACTIVITY DURING THE WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL, I HAVE CONSULTED WITH MY BRITISH AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES AND HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO STATE THAT CONTROL OF OUR LOCAL MILITARY FLIGHTS IN THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE IS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF WESTERN AUTHORITIES ALONE. I MIGHT NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT YOUR REMARKS HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO OUR AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF THEM. UNQUOTE.

CHERKASHIN THANKED US CHIEF FOR REPLY AND STATED THAT ALL SOVIETS ASKED WAS THAT IF WE HAD TO CONDUCT SUCH FLIGHTS WE AVOID FLYING OVER PUBLIC EVENTS. HE ADDED THAT IF AIRCRAFT HAD TO FLY OVER CROWDS ON TAKEOFF OR LANDING, THERE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE NO PROBLEM.

3. AS RESULT OF MAY 1 INCIDENT, WE HAVE IN EFFECT SYSTEM WHICH GIVES GREATER COMMAND CONTROL OF ROUTES AND TIMINGS OF LOCAL US FLIGHTS, IN ORDER TO AVOID OVERFLIGHTS OF OUTDOOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS DELIBERATE HARASSMENT. EVEN BEFORE THE SOVIET APPROACH WE HAD DECIDED FURTHER TO TIGHTEN THIS SYSTEM DURING WYF, AND WILL STAY AWAY, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, FROM PUBLIC EVENTS OF WHICH WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND FROM MITTE AREA GENERALLY. WE ARE ALSO, AS ARE BRITISH AND FRENCH, TAKING MEASURES WHICH WILL, WITHOUT COMPROMISING OUR RIGHT OF FREE CIRCULATION, MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING PATROLS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS TO EAST BERLIN DURING FESTIVAL PERIOD.

4. USCOB CONCURS.BORG

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NNN

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